

Abstract:

The invention relates to a process for enhancing the filling capacity of tobacco, such as cut tobacco leaf or tobacco midribs, or tobacco additional material, by treating the tobacco material having an initial moisture of 10-30% with a treatment gas consisting of nitrogen and/or argon at pressures of 400 to 1,000 bar followed by a continuous decompression and subsequent thermal post-treatment of the discharged tobacco material. The filling density of the tobacco charge in the autoclave is greater than 0.2 kg/dm^3 .